



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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April 26, 2001

Inquiry: For the purposes herein, the term "Respiratory Diagnostic Procedures" shall specifically mean performance (i.e., placement of sensors, monitoring, instructions, etc.) of pulse oximetry; sleep studies of any number of channels; and/or capnography directly upon a patient for the purpose of developing data for either diagnostic or respiratory assessment purposes. (1) Is it within the scope of practice for an individual who is not licensed as a RCP by the RCBC to perform respiratory diagnostic procedures? (2) Is it within the scope of practice for an individual who is licensed as a Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) by the RCBC, but who is not working under a medical director or a supervising physician, to perform respiratory diagnostic procedures? (3) Is it within the scope of practice for an individual who is licensed as a RCP by the RCBC, and who is working under a medical director or a supervising physician, to perform respiratory diagnostic procedures?

Response: The Respiratory Care Board (RCB) has reviewed your inquiry received in our office.

In reference to your inquiry regarding an unlicensed person performing respiratory diagnostic procedures, please be advised that persons who hold a valid license, other than a respiratory care practitioner (RCP) license, may perform respiratory diagnostic procedures (i.e., performance (i.e., placement of sensors, monitoring, instructions, etc.) of pulse oximetry; sleep studies of any number of channels; and/or capnography directly upon a patient for the purpose of developing data for either diagnostic or respiratory assessment purposes) if authorized by the state agency issuing the license.

In reference to your inquiry regarding a licensed RCP, not working under the direction of a medical director, performing diagnostic procedures (i.e., performance (i.e., placement of sensors, monitoring, instructions, etc.) of pulse oximetry; sleep studies of any number of channels; and/or capnography directly upon a patient for the purpose of developing data for either diagnostic or respiratory assessment purposes), please be advised that a licensed RCP must work under the direction of a medical director when engaged in the practice of respiratory care. The respiratory diagnostic procedures specified in your inquiry constitute the practice of respiratory care.

Reference # 2001-C-11